

Appl. No. 10/003,800
Amdt. dated March 10, 2006
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2005

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated December 13, 2005 and is filed along with a Request for Continued Examination.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-10 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yacoub (U.S. 6452692) (hereinafter Yacoub). Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out the differences between embodiments of the present invention and the prior art. Claim 1 has been amended to comprise the elements of:

“sending a print task to a selected printer that is part of a network comprising at least one computing device capable of generating a print task, said network also comprising and a plurality of printing devices;

monitoring said print task for a print task failure;

saving said print task when a print task failure occurs;

monitoring said network for a successful print task;

identifying an alternate printer to which said successful print task was sent; and

resending said saved print task to said alternate printer”.

Yacoub does not disclose any method of “monitoring said network for a successful print task” or “identifying an alternate printer to which said successful print task was sent.”

Yacoub teaches away from these steps by using a database (col. 6, line 2, lines 16-22) populated with printer data from which an alternate printer may be selected when a print

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task fails. Using this database method, there is no need to monitor for successful print tasks or identify the printer to which they were sent since the database of Yacoub already contains the information sought from the successful print task.

Regarding claims 2-6, each of these claims is dependent on claim 1, comprises all the limitations thereof and is, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1.

Regarding claim 7, which has been amended similarly to claim 1, this claim now comprises the elements of "monitoring a network for a successful print task" and "identifying an alternate printer to which said successful print task was sent." Additionally, claim 7 comprises the element of "monitoring said network for a successful print task that originates from a different computing device than the computing device from which said print task originated." These elements are not found in Yacoub as stated above in relation to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 7, as amended, is patentable in its current form.

Regarding claims 8-10, each of these claims is dependent on claim 7, comprises all the limitations thereof and is, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claims 1 and 7.

Regarding claim 12, claim 12 has been amended, similarly to claims 1 and 7, to comprise the elements of "monitoring said network for a successful print task;" and "analyzing said successful print task" to find an alternative printer. Furthermore, claim 12 comprises the element of "modifying said failed print task to allow printing on said

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printer when said print task cannot otherwise be printed on said printer.” Yacoub does not disclose any of these limitations.

Regarding claims 13-14, each of these claims is dependent on claim 12, comprises all the limitations thereof and is, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claims 1, 7 and 12.

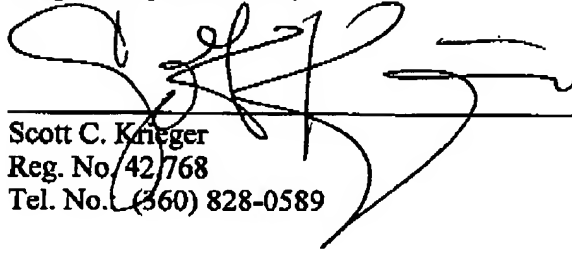
Regarding claims 15, 16 and 17, these claims are similar system, computer-readable medium and propagated signal claims, respectfully, all of which comprise, as amended, the elements of “monitoring said network for a successful print task;” and “analyzing said successful print task” to find an alternative printer. Yacoub does not disclose any of these limitations. Accordingly, these claims are patentable, as currently amended.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yacoub in view of Shah (U.S. 6,618,167) (hereinafter Shah). Claim 11 has been amended to comprise the elements of “monitoring said network for a successful print task;” and “analyzing said successful print task” to find an alternative printer. Claim 11 further comprises the elements of prioritizing print jobs and prompting a user to confirm a reprint. The combination of Yacoub and Shah does not disclose these elements.

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Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott C. Krieger', is written over a horizontal line.

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